

CLAIMSWHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. An apparatus for connecting components, comprising:
  - 5 at least one electrical connector comprising a tab section;
  - a housing at least partially enclosing the at least one electrical connector;
  - wherein the housing is molded into sealing engagement with the electrical connectors; and
  - 10 wherein the tab section is capable of removal from the electrical connector after the housing is molded.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is capable of providing electrical connection between a plurality of electrical components.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrical connector comprises a series of electrical connectors attached by the tab sections prior to the molding of the housing around the connectors.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the series of electrical connectors are capable of being segmented into discrete components after the molding of the housing around the connectors and the removal of the tab sections.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a component of an implantable medical device.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises an insulating material.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises moldable plastic.
8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises glass.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrical connector provides an electrical passageway from a first contact surface to a second contact surface.

5 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrical connector conducts electrical signals between a plurality of contact surfaces on each electrical connector, wherein the housing provides isolation between the various electrical connectors.

10 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein electrical wires proceeding from electrical components are welded to the plurality of electrical contacts.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrical connector comprise a metal.

15 13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrical connector comprise a base metal having at least one plating material.

20 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the plating material is chosen from the group comprising gold, nickel, and their alloys.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the implantable medical device comprises at least one of a pacemaker, cardioverter, defibrillator, neural stimulator, and a drug administering device.

25 16. A feedthrough arrangement for electrical connection of at least one component, comprising:

a plurality of electrical contacts for conducting electrical signals;

a molded housing comprising an electrical insulating material, the housing enclosing a portion of the plurality of electrical contacts, the housing being in sealing engagement therewith;

the housing comprising a plurality of apertures, the apertures capable of receiving electrical wires for connection with the plurality of electrical contacts; and

wherein the feedthrough arrangement is a component of an implantable  
5 medical device.

17. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 16, wherein the insulating housing comprises moldable plastic.

10 18. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 16, wherein the insulating housing comprises glass.

15 19. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 16, further comprising:  
the housing having an opening and the housing defining a first environment  
within the housing; and  
wherein the plurality of electrical contacts extend from the first environment  
within the housing to a second environment outside of the housing.

20 20. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 19, wherein the plurality of apertures  
extend from the first environment within the housing to a second environment outside  
of the housing.

25 21. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 19, wherein the plurality of electrical  
contacts conduct electrical signals between the first environment and the second  
environment and the housing provides isolation between the first and second  
environments.

30 22. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 21, wherein the plurality of electrical  
contacts are welded to the electrical wires that are disposed through the plurality of  
apertures.

23. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 16, wherein the plurality of electrical contacts comprise a metal.

5 24. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 16, wherein the plurality of electrical contacts comprise a base metal having at least one plating material.

25. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 24, wherein the plating material is chosen from the group comprising gold, nickel, and their alloys.

10 26. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 16, wherein the housing and the plurality of electrical contacts are a component of an implantable medical device.

15 27. The feedthrough arrangement of claim 26, wherein the implantable medical device comprises at least one of a pacemaker, cardioverter, defibrillator, neural stimulator, and a drug administering device.

20 28. An electrical connector, comprising:  
an insert comprising a plurality of electrical contacts and a connecting tab that connects to the plurality of electrical contacts; and  
an insulating housing, the housing molded in contact with the plurality of electrical contacts;  
wherein the electrical connector is a component in an implantable medical device.

25 29. The electrical connector of claim 28, wherein the connecting tab is detachable from the plurality of electrical contacts.

30 30. The electrical connector of claim 28, wherein the plurality of electrical contacts are capable of providing electrical connection between components of the implantable medical device.

31. The electrical connector of claim 28, wherein the insulating housing comprises moldable plastic.

5 32. The electrical connector of claim 28, wherein the insulating housing comprises glass.

10 33. The electrical connector of claim 28, wherein the insulating housing comprises a plurality of apertures capable of communicating electrical wires through the apertures and to the plurality of electrical contacts.

15 34. A method for electrically connecting components of an implantable medical device, comprising:

providing a molded electrical connector comprising a plurality of electrical contacts;

inserting the electrical connector within an implantable medical device; and electrically connecting components of the implantable medical device to the electrical connector, thereby electrically connecting the components of the implantable medical device together.

20 35. The method of claim 34, wherein the implantable medical device comprises at least one of a pacemaker, cardioverter, defibrillator, neural stimulator, and a drug administering device.

25 36. A method for manufacturing an electrical connector for an implantable medical device, comprising:

providing a contact insert comprising at least one contact section and a tab section;

molding a housing around at least a portion of the at least one contact section, whereby the at least one contact section is at least partially enclosed within the housing;

removing the tab section from the at least one contact section; and inserting the electrical connector within an implantable medical device.

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37. The method of claim 36, wherein the housing comprises an insulating material.

5       38. The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
molding plastic material to create an insulating housing around a portion of the  
electrical insert.

10      39. The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
molding glass to create an insulating housing around a portion of the electrical  
insert.